Fighting the Unexpected: Battling Illness in 2014.

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March 2, 2022

I experienced a severe stomach ache for the first time while in class. I briefly considered calling Appa to pick me up, but I decided against it as the pain lasted from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. I kept it to myself and didn't mention it to anyone. However, Chandu noticed something was off and asked if I was okay. I assured him that I was fine and changed the subject. Thankfully, Prici wasn't around during that time. Once I arrived home, I developed a headache and felt faint. Appa remarked that I had become weak and lost weight. However, my main concern was that I might start menstruating within the next two to three days. I prayed to God, asking that if I had any health issues, they wouldn't burden my parents or others. I also prayed to be able to hide my pain from others. Along with the fever, I felt like a burden to my parents and made a decision not to express my health problems to them.

The first time a doctor came to our house was when I had a fever, and I received an injection. The fever persisted for three days, during which I couldn't eat anything. On January 17, 2014, I cried and asked Appa to take me to the hospital. Amma was extremely concerned about me. I also had a stomach ache, but I chose not to share it with Appa or Amma. I suspected it could be due to a stone or ulcer. On January 18, I was taken to the hospital, where they determined that the fever was caused by bed sores. I received several antibiotic injections, and after that, I only had a fever for one more day. By January 19, I was feeling much better and was admitted to the ESI hospital. However, being there was quite tiresome for me. Private hospitals seemed more comfortable in comparison, but the medications provided at ESI were more effective. On January 20, Prici came to visit me after Pradeep finished his tuition. Having them around made me feel slightly better. I was discharged on January 21 as I had practicals at school. I felt guilty for causing Amma so many troubles within such a short period of time. On January

22, after being discharged, Pradeep’s parents and Deepa came to see me. We all had a conversation until 9:30 p.m. Amma seemed to like Pradeep, and Appa had a pleasant conversation with their family.